

See, I am bringing you good *tidings* of great joy for all the people...Luke 2:10



TIDINGS

Volume 21 issue 5

May 2021

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A few weeks ago, I lent my youngest daughter a book entitled "Creation and the Persistence of Evil" by Jon D. Levenson. I often write in the margins and underline my books, and she noticed a word I had written on the cover page: pedantic, which mean overly wordy or verbose. She picked up on that and called me later and laughed about it saying that I had properly critiqued the book in one word. To her credit, she finished the book, and then sent me a voicemail about his conclusion. She wanted to know why he couldn't just say what he wanted to say, and cut out the repetition and excessive pedantry. I answered something like: because in academia if you want to be taken seriously you must make your argument as complete as possible. I then asked her if he was right, to which she replied of course he was right.

I bring this up because I wanted her to know what I am sharing with you now. A religion built on the premise that creation cannot be complete until our God comes back, and destroys evil (again) so that he (or she) can be re-enthroned over creation. This opens the door to questioning the transcendent nature of God. Is evil truly that powerful that God is no longer in control? If our faith is based on a "rapture" scenario, or some other eschatological perspective where God must once again conquer evil because it has grown too powerful, then our God is either inattentive, or not all powerful. My message to you this month is this: God has conquered the forces of chaos. If we see evil in the world, that evil is a result of the agency of human kind. Each of us has a choice, we have free will, we can do good, or we can give in to the forces of chaos. By blaming a third party (the devil made me do it) we falsely attempt to divest ourselves of our moral responsibility to address the systemic evils of our society. I have used a lot of words here to say: if we want toe world to be good and just, we must make it so. But like all academics, I want my point to be taken seriously. It is the ministry of the church to make the world a just place. "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8

Peace.
David Martin, Pastor

IMPORTANT information regarding in person worship!!!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Springtime has come, infection rates have dropped in Connecticut, and many people have been vaccinated. We are pleased to announce that beginning May 2nd, we will once again be offering in person worship; we will still be broadcasting worship on zoom as well. There is limited seating because the chairs have been spread out, but most who want to come should be able to find a seat. We encourage those without vaccinations to wait until they have received theirs before venturing out to in-person worship. If you really want to be at worship but are uncomfortable being indoors with others just yet, we will have 6 outdoor worship Sundays this Spring/Summer.

Many of you undoubtedly miss corporate worship (as do I), and it feels like forever since we have been together. We are reentering worship within the building at North church with an abundance of caution. This is for the safety of everyone present, AND everyone to whom you will go home to after worship. As we seek to balance the needs of

(Continued on page 6)

Office Hours

Pastor Dave

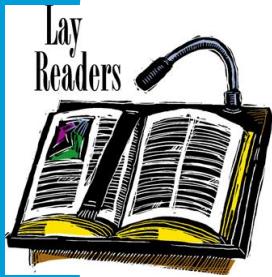
Monday & Tuesday

8:00-5:00ish

Office Manger Makayla

Monday & Thursday

9:00-12:00



May

Consider Volunteering
When We Can Meet
Again

We welcome anyone interested in serving as a liturgist to contact Barbie Turley.

Responsibilities of the liturgist: lead responsive readings, read the scripture lesson, and assist with communion if assigned on the first Sunday of the month.

Ushers Needed!

Responsibilities include:
Welcoming Members and Visitors at the door,
Handing out bulletins,
Record a count of attendance, Collect the offering, and guide people to the altar on Communion Sundays.

Please prayerfully consider this important ministry!

If you have any questions please speak with **Roger Edinger**



Sign up in the Memorial Room

Responsibilities of Ushers:

Welcome members and visitors at the door, hand out bulletins, count attendees, collect the offering, and direct people to the altar table on Communion Sunday. Be available to answer questions of visitors, show them to classrooms for Church School.

Ushers should arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of service. Please be in touch with Roger Edinger 860-646-8984 if you would like to serve.

May

Regular Schedule Will Resume When Possible



OFFERING COUNTERS

Responsibilities of

Counters: Counters work in teams of two and are responsible for counting the offering on Sunday morning directly following the worship service.

Any member interested in volunteering for this task should contact the church office or talk to any of the counters.



CHURCH

SUNDAY

CLOSING:

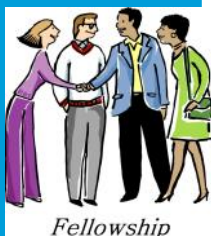
TRUSTEE

Members

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Individuals and groups are invited to please volunteer and sign-up in the Memorial Room to provide fellowship refreshments after service on Sunday mornings.

Thank you!



Join us for Fellowship

Responsibilities of providing Fellowship:

Bring a quart of whole milk for use with coffee and tea, and a healthy snack to share.

North Church is a NUT FREE zone.

Set-up coffee to brew, hot water for Tea and Hot Chocolate, a pitcher of juice, 2 containers of milk, and sugar/sugar substitute, napkins, and plates if needed. Fellowship is served after the service. Clean-up after fellowship time (approx. 11:50 am) includes washing out pots and containers and returning them to their place in the kitchen, and wiping down tables in the Memorial Room.



COVID 19 ANNOUNCEMENT

Until further notice, MACC Charities' Emergency Policy is:

The Community Kitchen will remain open to give out bagged lunches.

1 bag per person will be handed out during regular lunch hours of **11:30-12:45pm**

Dining inside or outside of the MACC Campus is not permitted.

The Emergency Food Pantry will hand off prepacked groceries (by appointment only, please call ***860-647-8003 x 31**)

No one is allowed to enter the pantry to shop on their own.

The Community Threads Thrift Shoppe IS OPEN again!

Hours: Mon – Sat 10AM – 2PM

Note: All emergency assistance can be accessed through the same **number***

Food and other donations will be gratefully received at the Community Pantry, 460 Main St, Manchester during these times:

Monday through Thursday 9am-4pm and Friday 9am-2pm

MACC's essential food services will continue, following all social health & safety guidelines to protect our guests, volunteers, staff and community.

"Being kind to the poor is like lending to the Lord" – Proverbs 19:17

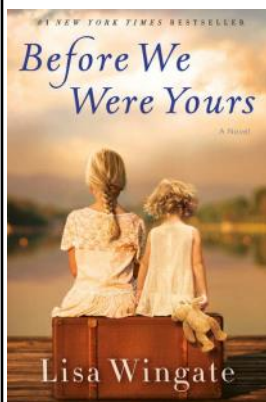
MACC EMERGENCY NEEDS ITEMS

The following are always in need and your donations are welcomed.

- Cereal
- Pasta Sauce
- Pasta
- Pasta Salad Mix
- Boxed Stuffing
- Canned Vegetables
- All Canned Soups
- Jelly
- Peanut Butter
- Mac N Cheese
- Mashed Potatoes
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Mayonnaise
- Ketchup
- Cooking Oil

Fresh Produce (Monday – Thursdays)

- All Hygiene Products
- Cleaning Supplies



The North Church Readers

Our next reading selection is *Before we were yours* by Lisa Wingate. Two families, generations apart, are forever changed by a heartbreaking injustice. In this poignant novel, inspired by a true story, Avery Stafford seems to have it all. Born into the world of wealth and privilege, she is a loving daughter to her father, a U.S. senator. When Avery returns to Aiken to help her father weather a health crisis and a political attack, a chance encounter with Mary Crandall, an elderly women she has never met before, leaves Avery deeply shaken.

Discussion will be on May 23, 2021

Contact Jackie if you have any questions.

Name That Hymn with Chris Collins

A time of gathering, virtually

Every Wednesday

7:00 pm via ZOOM

(ZOOM link sent by email)

Stomping Out Human Exploitation

Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 2:00 PM

Church of the Nazarene, 218 Main St., Manchester

Free Program; Open to Everyone

- ⇒ Human Trafficking — Needs to be extinguished
- ⇒ Labor Trafficking — Get the facts
- ⇒ Sex Trafficking — Make a difference



May Birthdays

5th Sarah Flaherty
 14th Jane Hopkins
 18th Sue Derby
 Mike Geres
 Cindi Gilligan
 22nd Paige LeBlanc
 29th Anita Baten
 30th Jim Williamson

Birthday Blessings to Everyone!




FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

Crystal Price, Dottie Allen, Jean Derby, Jenna & Patty, Nellie, Ruth Mancell, Mary, Marian, Mike & Dorothy Thompson, Liz, Sarah & Friends, Ray Johnson, Austin,

Decency Wins, Sue L. Alisa Smith, Nichols Family, Joan & Charles Nichols, Mark Fitzgerald, Carol Haviland, Judy Parlee, Jack Stroup, Stephanie Oppon-Kunty, Sara Miller, Florence, Gary Chappell, Ron Starkweather, Wayne Zorger Sr. Melissa Lepack, JanMarie, Robert, Kevin Saint Hilaire, Susan Fenn, Jack Benton, Diana Custer, Walter Johnson, Lisa Roman, Olivia Roman, Matt Turkington

Prayers for Cancer: Sheila, Ann, Beth, Elliot, Betty, Nick, Rachael, Charlotte, Ted, Janet, Muriel, Miriam, Anita, Garry, Lena, Jane, Jennifer, Judy, Joan, Myia, Tracy, Jean, Deb, Jenn, Rose, Jeffrey, Jackie, Diane, Ray, Cindy, Terry, Robin, Sheena, Geoff, Tricia, Marilyn, Dave, Henriet, Tom, Brenda, Ella, Sue, Deb C.



NORTH UMC will host BLOOD DRIVES

May 6th and 20th

DONORS URGENTLY NEEDED. CALL 1-800-GIVE LIFE (1-800-448-3543) to schedule an appointment.

Volunteers are needed to monitor the building during the drives.

Please sign-up in the Memorial Room to help out.




Questions may be directed to Rev. Martin.



***REMINDER**

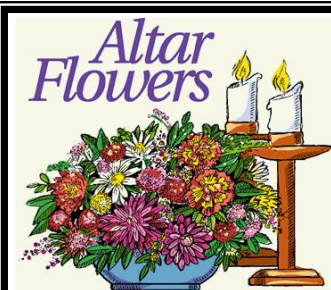
Please wear name tags every Sunday.

Anyone in need of a name tag, please note it on the back of your attendance slip on Sunday morning and one will be made for you.



Ad Council Meeting

TBD



Flowers are a wonderful way to acknowledge the Memory of a Loved One or to Celebrate a special person or occasion. Consider what you may have to offer, fresh and seasonal are especially nice. *Forms are available in the Memorial Room to make such requests.*

If you have any questions or prefer to order by phone, please contact Susan Fenn 860-729-6446



WAMS (Wellness And Multiple Sclerosis)!

WAMS is a positive and affirming group that focuses on living well with MS. This group is co-led by North Members Heidi Lenhardt, National MS Society Support Leader and Vickie Hadge, Overcoming MS (OMS) Ambassador.

If you are newly diagnosed, have been living with MS for years, or are an MS care partner WAMS welcomes you! WAMS is a friendly, non-judgmental and safe place where privacy is protected. No matter where you are on your MS wellness journey we encourage our members to “do whatever it takes” to live well to be the healthiest they can be while living with MS. WAMS typically meets on the third Sunday of the month 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM ET in Zoom (until it is safe to meet in person again). Please reach out via email to Vickie at vlhadge@yahoo.com or Heidi wellnessandms@yahoo.com for more details!



Knitting Ministry

The Knitting Ministry continues to be prolific in their creation of hats, shawls and blankets to donate.

We meet on Mondays at 1:00 pm on ZOOM.

The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88513484753>

Password: 1234

Our group is open to all with or without yarn skills. Contact: Paula Adamecyk anthony.adamecyk@snet.net or Susan Derby susanderby@cox.net with questions.

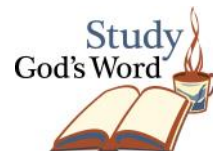


A beautiful blanket crocheted by Liz, who crocheted over 100 hats last year in addition to other items. Such great comfort she gives to others!

Bible Study

Bible Study will be returning soon!

Stay sharp for details!



Online Giving

Online giving is available at:

<http://www.simplechurchgiving.net/northumc> or scan the QR code shown below to go to the site. Set up an account and conveniently schedule your routine giving. Never miss another month or have to remember your



checkbook. One time donations can be made as well. Selecting 'Bank Account' rather than 'Credit Card' costs NUMC the least in fees, but of course all donations are welcome.

Please contact us if you have any questions about online giving. Thank You!



the church to worship together, and the need to act responsibly towards our neighbors, we seek to be nimble in our responses to issues as they arise. And, we acknowledge that no matter the amount of planning, there will undoubtedly be blind spots. The staff, trustees, and worship team are open to how we might do things safer and make worship a meaningful and impactful experience. Please carefully read the protocol section, which includes the rules and expectations for conduct during worship, followed by the worship schedule (with links) for the next three months.

Protocols for Safe Worship with Social Distancing in Mind:

1. Everyone must wear a mask in the building.
2. There will be no congregational singing until it's safe to do so (except during outdoor worship). Singing causes, us to express our breath in a way that significantly increases the chance of transmission. We would have to social distance some 30 ft making corporate worship impossible. We truly regret this. The Music Director, Chris Collins, will be working hard at finding alternatives for this activity, she already has lots of great ideas! When we worship outdoors, we will have congregational singing.
3. All who enter the worship space must sanitize their hands. If they leave the worship space to use the bathroom, they must re-sanitize at the door. We also strongly encourage you to wash your hands in the bathroom as well.
4. Entrances and exits are one way. Entry will be via the office door (on the portico), exits will be via the double glass doors onto the portico. Exiting for the bathroom will be through the memorial room door. No exceptions.
5. Offering plates will be available near the ushers on tables by the entrance and exits. The offering will not be taken during worship. Please make your offering as you come in or as you leave.
6. The chairs will be set up 6 ft apart in any direction. Only family members living in the same household may move their chairs to be next to one another. However, if those chairs are closer than 6 ft to someone NOT in their household, the family will have to make another arraignment to get their chairs together.
7. Starting May 16th we will have a few tables set up (café style) for families to sit together. Please call in advance and let us know if your family would like a table.
8. We strongly urge everyone to maintain social distancing while in the building. This means there will be no fellowship/coffee hour. Please refrain from hugging, shaking hands and other behaviors that could potentially transmit the virus. We are not out of the woods just yet!

Tentative Outdoor Worship Schedule:

(times and venues subject to change if Covid numbers spike, or inclement weather drives us towards cover)

5/9 Mother's Day

5/30 Memorial Day Weekend (and a Baptism!!)

6/20 Father's Day

7/4 Independence Day

8/29 The dog days!

9/12 Also Rally Sunday!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83102141139>



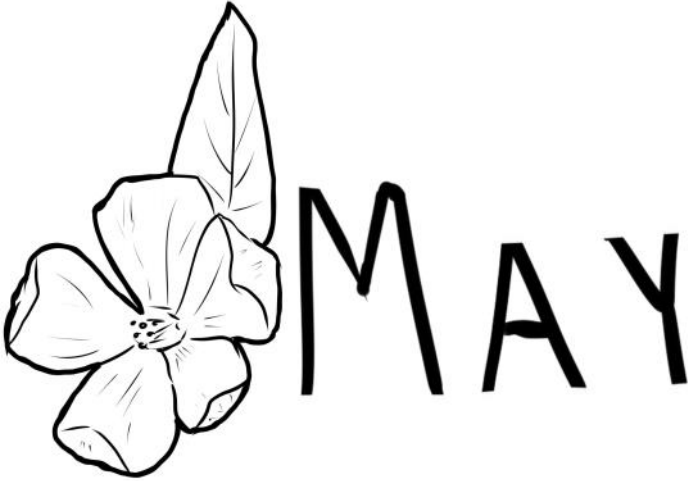
Passcode: 1234

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 831 0214 1139

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the office via phone or email. We thank you for your cooperation during these times and we look forward to seeing you in person once again.

Pastor David Martin and the Worship Committee.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-----|------------------------|--|-----|-----------------------------|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1/8 |
| 10:30 am In Person and ZOOM Online Worship | | | 7:00pm ZOOM Gatherings |  | | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 10:30 am In Person and ZOOM Online Worship | | | 7:00pm ZOOM Gatherings | | | Tidings Submission Deadline |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 10:30 am In Person and ZOOM Online Worship | | | 7:00pm ZOOM Gatherings |  | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 10:30 am In Person and ZOOM Online Worship | | | 7:00pm ZOOM Gatherings | | | |
| North Church Readers | | | | | | |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |
| 10:30 am In Person and ZOOM Online Worship | | | |  | | |

North United Methodist Church

300 Parker Street
Manchester, CT 06042

Address Service Requested



North United Methodist
300 Parker Street
Manchester, CT 06042

Pastor: David J. Martin

*Worship the Lord in the
splendor of his holiness!*

1 Corinthians 16:29

Phone: 860-649-3696
E-mail: northchurch@snet.net
Web-Site: <http://numc.axelhouse.com>

New England Conference
Web-Site: <http://www.neumc.org>

CHOIR WARM UP

9:30 am

NURSERY—upon request

10:15 am—11:45 am

WORSHIP

10:30 am Worship,
Youth and Children's Sunday
School, One-Room for Summer

FELLOWSHIP

11:30 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children attend the beginning of
the service at 10:30 am and then
proceed to class following the
Children's Time. Classes dis-
miss at 11:45 am.

10:30 am

Worship

COMMUNION
SUNDAYS

The first Sunday of each month
is Communion Sunday, at
which time the children will
begin in Sunday School classes
and then attend church with
their families in corporate
worship at the time for
communion and will remain
until the conclusion of service.

For over 200 years,
North UMC has pro-
claimed the good news
of Jesus Christ to the
people of Manchester
CT. We invite you to
join us for worship on
Sunday mornings.

*A warm welcome
awaits you!*

**As followers of the teachings of Jesus Christ,
North United Methodist Church strives to be
an inclusive community. We welcome, respect
and celebrate persons of every race,
ethnicity, gender identity,
sexual orientation, national
origin, ability, family
status, age and economic
circumstance. We want
you to feel at home and
know that you belong
here.**

